GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:206
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
ORAL CANCER
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) The details of cases of oral cancer reported during the last three years alongwith the amount of expenditure incurred on medical treatment of those affected, year-wise ;

(b) Whether reasons have been ascertained for the increase in such cases ;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) The efforts made by the Government to spread awareness among masses in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)to(d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 206 FOR 6TH DECEMBER, 2006

The details regarding number of persons suffering from cancer including oral cancer and the expenditure involved in the treatment of cancer is not maintained centrally. However, as per information collected by Population Based Cancer Registry functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), it has been estimated that at any given point of time, there are 25 lakh cancer patients in the country and about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year.Tobacco is one of the main causes of cancer including oral cancer. Nearly 50% of the cancer deaths is attributable to tobacco consumption.

Treatment for cancer is provided in Government hospitals at secondary and tertiary level. In addition, 25 Regional Cancer Centres provide comprehensive cancer treatment to the patients. The treatment is either free or at subsidized rate in Government Hospitals. Financial assistance is also provided to cancer patients living below poverty line under the Rastriya Arogya Nidhi. Public awareness about the hazards of tobacco use and its association with cancer including the oral cancer is being carried out through the print and electronic media.